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LeMond: Lance threatened me

Report says three-time Tour winner forced to testify

Posted: Sunday June 25, 2006 6:53PM; Updated: Monday June 26, 2006 9:02AM

PARIS (AP) -- Three-time Tour de France winner Greg LeMond says he testified in a court case involving Lance Armstrong because the Texan had threatened him, according to *L'Equipe Dimanche* on Sunday.

Greg LeMond (right) says Lance Armstrong (left) "threatened my wife, my business, my life."

Pascal Rondeau/Getty Images

Last week, French newspapers published claims by the wife of a former Armstrong teammate alleging that the seven-Time Tour winner had admitted to using performance-enhancing drugs in 1996.

Betsy Andreu claimed that Armstrong, days after he underwent brain surgery in 1996, had told a doctor he had used the blood-boosting hormone EPO and other drugs.

Armstrong denied the allegations made in sworn statements by Andreu, the wife of former teammate Frankie Andreu, before an arbitration panel in January.

In a two-page denial released Friday, Armstrong called the allegations "stale, unfounded and untrue."

Her testimony came in a legal dispute over whether Armstrong was owed a $5 million bonus for winning the 2004 Tour. The bonus had been withheld due to claims Armstrong had cheated.

After three weeks of testimony in the case, Armstrong was awarded $7.5 million.

In the weekly edition of *L'Equipe Dimanche*, LeMond outlined his reasons for testifying in the case.

"I was forced to testify, because Lance had threatened me," LeMond said. "He threatened my wife, my business, my life. His biggest threat consisted of saying he would find 10 people to testify that I took EPO. Of course, he didn't find a single one."

In 2001, LeMond said he was unhappy about Armstrong's link to Italian doctor Michele Ferrari, who received a suspended yearlong jail sentence in October 2004 for sports fraud and malpractice.

LeMond later issued an apology to Armstrong, saying he was "a great champion" and that his critical remarks on Armstrong's links to Ferrari had been taken out of context.

Ferrari once advised Armstrong, but the cyclist cut his ties with him after the conviction. Ferrari was cleared of the most severe charge of distributing health-threatening doping products.

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PRESS BOX
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GOLF

Stormy weather halts Curtis' victory lap

Ben Curtis will have to wait at least one more day to get his first victory since the 2003 British Open.

Curtis was routing the field Sunday in the Booz Allen Classic, leading by eight strokes over **Padraig Harrington** with seven holes to go, when play was suspended for the day because of approaching thunderstorms in Potomac, Md.

Curtis was on the 12th hole with a score of 23 under, poised to break the tournament record of 21 under. Play was scheduled to resume at 8 a.m. Monday.

"I've still got to play my game," Curtis said. "I don't want to go to sleep tonight, 'Oh, you've got it won,' because I've still got 6½ holes to go."

■ **Jeong Jang** won the Wegmans LPGA for her second career LPGA Tour title, closing with a 2-under 70 for a one-stroke victory over **Julieta Granada** in Pittsford, N.Y., becoming the eighth South Korean winner on the tour this season.

"I've been waiting a long time, feels like over a year," said Jang, whose first victory came in the Women's British Open last summer. "That's why I think I'm more happy."

■ **John Harris** won his first Champions Tour title with a 6-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole in East Meadow, N.Y., to beat **Tom Jenkins** in the Commerce Bank Championship.

■ **Ron Philo Jr.** won the PGA National Professional Championship in Verona, N.Y., beating **Alan Schulte** with a bogey on the third hole of a playoff. Illinois coach **Mike Small** finished fourth but still earned a spot in the Aug. 17-20 PGA Championship at Medinah Country Club.

Getty Images photo by Scott Halleran

Tournament leader Ben Curtis watches his tee shot on the third hole during Sunday's final round of the Booz Allen Classic.

AUTO RACING

Allmendinger wins 2nd straight Champ race

A.J. Allmendinger won his second straight race, avoiding major trouble in the Champ Car Grand Prix of Cleveland in which points leader **Sebastien Bourdais** was knocked out during the first lap in a crash that sent him briefly to a hospital.

Allmendinger is the only American driver in the series. In a span of two weeks, he was fired by RuSport, hired by Forsythe Championship Racing and won his first race in Portland, Ore.

He lost a front wing when he went into the grass on Lap 1 and had to pit, but he stayed clear the rest of the way to finish 3.213 seconds ahead of **Bruno Junqueira**.

"That was just the craziest race I've ever been in," the 24-year-old Allmendinger said.

A record nine yellow caution flags went up during the race at Burke Lakefront Airport in the race's 25th anniversary, and only 11 cars from a field of 18 finished.

■ **Fernando Alonso** won his fourth consecutive race, driving his Renault to an easy victory at the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal and widening his lead over **Michael Schumacher** to 25 points in the world championship standings.

CYCLING

Report: LeMond says Armstrong threatened life

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"I was forced to testify because Lance had threatened me," LeMond said. "He threatened my wife, my business, my life. His biggest threat consisted of saying he would find 10 people to testify that I took EPO. Of course he didn't find a single one."

■ About 200 professional riders stopped during an elite road race in Madrid to protest a newspaper report of a police investigation about drugs and cycling.

INSTANT MESSAGE

Ed Sherman weighs in on the changes to the Western Open.

This is the worst deal for Chicago golf fans since the invention of winter.

The PGA Tour is rewarding the area's staunch loyalty to the Western Open by turning Chicago into a once-every-other-year tournament town.

After months of waiting, the PGA Tour finally will unveil its plans Monday. The tournament will shift to September in 2007 to be part of the new season-ending Championship Series format.

Also, the venerable Western name won't be in the title anymore. The event will become the BMW Championship.

But the cruelest blow calls for the tournament to rotate out of Chicago in 2008, 2010 and 2012 to courses in St. Louis, Indianapolis and Minneapolis. Officials say they want to expose the tour to areas in the Midwest that don't play host to regular tournaments.

If that's the case, then why doesn't the tour move the Barclays Championship, based in the New York area, and play it a couple of times in Philadelphia, a major market that isn't on the tour's schedule?

Why the PGA Tour would want to abandon Chicago, the nation's third-largest market and perhaps first for golf, is beyond baffling. Regardless of the spin that will come Monday, there is only one bottom line: the PGA Tour is giving the shaft to area golf fans, and it isn't graphite.

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Getty Images photo by Scott Halleran

Tournament leader Ben Curtis watches his tee shot on the third hole during Sunday's final round of the Booz Allen Classic.

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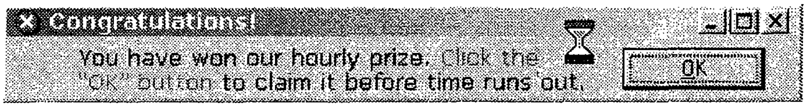
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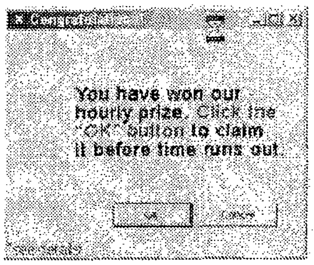
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Landis Doping Charge Gives LeMond a Chance to Rip Lance Armstrong

By Jim Roberts
Jul 31, 2006

The Floyd Landis doping charge brought three-time Tour de France champion Greg LeMond out to rip on seven-time winner Lance Armstrong.

Lance Armstrong Refuses to Take the Bait (Image: ABC)

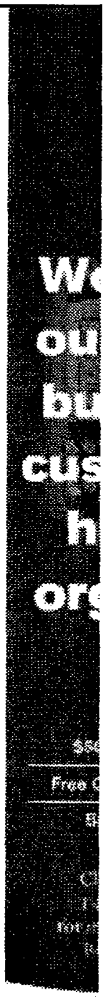
While telling Landis that if he is confirmed positive, he hopes he has the courage to tell the "truth," in an interview with French weekly Le Journal du Dimanche released on Saturday LeMond takes a shot at Lance.

LeMond's cheap shot: "I hope that [Landis] won't do what another American did: Deny, deny, deny."

Jealous anyone?

***

That American that LeMond is referring to is of course Lance Armstrong and he refused to take the bait to stoop to LeMond's level. He did take LeMond to school telling "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" this Sunday:



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"I mean, you can get Greg Lemond to go on the air and speculate. I'm not going to do that. But I'm not going south like Greg does. I believe in the sport. I love it, been a fan of it, and I'm going to support it."

Armstrong stayed above the fray but LeMond had more:

"It is cycling as a professional sport that represents the problem. It can transform someone into a liar," LeMond said.

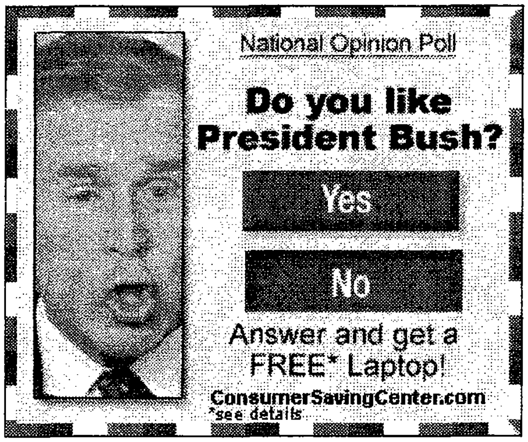
What a sad statement. Greg LeMond has turned into Greg who?

***

Using the doping charges against Floyd Landis and calling Lance Armstrong a liar with his ludicrous "deny, deny, deny" did nothing more than cheapen LeMond's legacy.

Spare me the lecture. Lance owns the sport that Greg once did. Take it like a man. Records were meant to be broken.

--Commentary by Jim Roberts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